

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House  
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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6518**

**BILL NUMBER:** SB 260

**DATE PREPARED:** Jan 6, 2001

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Pension Relief Fund distributions.

**FISCAL ANALYST:** James Sperlik

**PHONE NUMBER:** 232-9866

**FUNDS AFFECTED:** X GENERAL  
X DEDICATED  
FEDERAL

**IMPACT:** State & Local

**Summary of Legislation:** This bill provides that distributions from the Pension Relief Fund to local units of government shall be made in a particular year based on estimates of pension liabilities in the ensuing year.

It provides that in 2001, units of local government will receive Pension Relief Fund distributions under both the current Pension Relief Fund law and under the amended law. The bill provides that an eligible unit of government receiving a distribution from the Pension Relief Fund must spend from its local resources in 2001 and in 2002 at least the amount spent by that eligible unit in 2000 for pension payments.

It provides that to the extent that a distribution is paid in November 2001 or in 2002, that distribution must be placed in trust or encumbered for future pension payments. For each year through 2007, the bill provides an additional annual distribution from the Pension Relief Fund. It provides that the additional distribution is the amount necessary to ensure that at least 50% of each unit's pension liability is paid from the Pension Relief Fund.

The bill requires the PERF Board of Trustees to maintain separate accounts for each unit of local government into which a unit may: (1) make deposits; and (2) withdraw one time each year all or a portion of the unit's balance in the account to pay pension benefits under the old Police and Firefighter Pension Funds. It provides a one-time distribution from the Pension Relief Fund in 2001 in an amount sufficient to ensure that the Pension Relief Fund has paid at least 50% of each unit's pension liability for 1998 through 2000. (The introduced version of this bill was prepared by the Pension Management Oversight Commission.)

**Effective Date:** Upon passage; July 1, 2001.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** For the Public Employees' Retirement Fund (PERF), as administrators of the Pension Relief Fund, there likely will be additional administrative time and perhaps additional costs associated with the maintenance of separate accounts for each unit receiving the additional Pension Relief

Fund distributions. The specific fiscal impact, both for the amount of time necessary and the potential costs, are indeterminable but are expected to be relatively minor. The fund affected is the Investment Earnings Fund for PERF.

There are three portions of the proposal that would create a fiscal impact. They are as follows:

1) The bill provides that in 2001, units of local government will receive Pension Relief Fund distributions under both the current Pension Relief Fund law and this proposal. Since the Pension Relief Fund distributions will be accelerated by a year, there will be a fiscal impact from the loss of interest earnings that those funds would have been able to generate. The present value of the lost investment earnings is estimated to be \$56 M.

2) The bill provides that additional Pension Relief Fund distributions will be made each year through 2007 in an amount necessary to ensure that at least 50% of each unit's pension liability is paid from the Pension Relief Fund. The estimated present value of the additional Pension Relief Fund distributions through the year 2007 will be approximately \$42.5 M. The table below provides a year-by-year breakdown of the additional Pension Relief Fund distributions.

| <b>Year</b> | <b>Additional Pension Relief Distributions Due to 50% Minimum</b> |
|-------------|---|
| 2001        | \$6.3 M   |
| 2002        | \$6.0 M   |
| 2003        | \$5.9 M   |
| 2004        | \$5.9 M   |
| 2005        | \$5.8 M   |
| 2006        | \$6.0 M   |
| 2007        | \$6.6 M   |
| Total       | \$42.5 M  |

3) The bill also provides for a one-time distribution from the Pension Relief Fund in 2001 in an amount sufficient to ensure that the Pension Relief Fund has paid at least 50% of each unit's pension liability for 1998 through 2000. This one-time distribution is estimated to be \$15.7 M.

The major source of revenues for the Pension Relief Fund consists of a dedicated portion of Cigarette and Liquor taxes, investment income on invested funds, and (since 1990) Lottery revenue.

Under current statute, the "k" portion of the Pension Relief Fund is projected to run out of money in the year 2015. If this proposed bill is adopted and there are no State General Fund appropriations, the "k" portion of the Pension Relief Fund will run out of money in the year 2008.

Under current statute, the "m" portion of the Pension Relief Fund is projected to run out of money in the year

2021. If this proposed bill is adopted and there are no State General Fund appropriations, the "m" portion of the Pension Relief Fund will run out of money in the year 2015.

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:**

**Explanation of Local Revenues:** See Explanation of State Expenditures, above.

**State Agencies Affected:** Public Employees' Retirement Fund.

**Local Agencies Affected:** Units which receive Pension Relief Fund distributions.

**Information Sources:** Doug Todd of McCready & Keene, Inc., Actuary for PERF, 576-1508.